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Approved For Release 2006/04/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013400070007-3

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. [redacted]

TOPIC Barth Airfield and Firing Range

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EVALUATION See below PLACE ([redacted] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT May to 12 June 1952

[redacted] DATE PREPARED 23 July 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Since mid-May 1952, Barth airfield has been used less frequently for strafing practices by jet fighters. Strafing was practiced there only about once a week. No work was being done at the field. Farmers were allowed to use the area as pasture land. Detonations by a demolition squard were heard almost daily.

2. Between 21 May and 5 June, there was intensive air traffic over Barth. Strafing was practiced only on 30 May and 5 June. On 30 May, between 10 and 10:15 a.m., two MiG-15s approached the target four times. Only one burst was fired at each approach. The aircraft came down at an angle from about 1,000 meters to 200 meters. Immediately after the burst of fire, the aircraft climbed at an angle of about 50 degrees. Between 7:25 and 7:35 p.m., the field was again approached by two MiG-15s which fired one burst at each approach flight. The explosions were considerably louder than those heard in the morning. After firing, the aircraft climbed at an angle of about 50 degrees. The approaching and departin planes flew at a distance of 150 to 200 meters. Between 10 and 10:20 p.m., a conventional plane crossed the field and dropped parachute flares, which illuminated the area for 5 to 6 seconds. No approach flights were observed during that time.

3. On 5 June, at about 12:45 p.m., a MiG-15 once approached the target at an angle and opened fire at an altitude of about 300 meters. The sound of the explosion had a higher pitch and was louder than the explosions previously heard. Between 3 and 7 p.m., MiG-15s practiced firing at a sleeve target. Aircraft approached the tow-target from above and below at the same time. The approaches were made by aircraft flying in elements of two, which pursued the sleeve target for about 10 minutes. *

25X1 * [redacted] Comment. Barth airfield is used as a firing range by the fighter regiments stationed in Puetnitz.

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